Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water of ~~claim 1~~Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ water softening treatment is carried out by passing the water for the cathode chamber through ~~the~~a water softening apparatus in which a cationic exchange resin is filled ~~up~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water according to ~~claim 1~~Claim 12, wherein the flow rate of water to be provided to the anode chamber is restricted to 40mL/min. per ~~1A (ampere)~~ampere of loading electric current or less.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water according to ~~claim 1~~Claim 12, wherein ~~the~~ water for dilution is mixed ~~to the~~with electrolyzed water produced in the anode chamber ~~so as~~ to prepare acidic electrolyzed water having a pH from 2.0 to 4.0 and ~~the~~ water for dilution is mixed ~~to the~~with electrolyzed water produced in the cathode chamber ~~so as~~ to prepare alkaline electrolyzed water having a pH from 10 to 13.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water of ~~claim 2~~Claim 13, wherein the water softening treatment is carried out by passing the water

through the water softening apparatus in which a cationic exchange resin is filled ~~up~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water according to ~~claim 2~~Claim 13, wherein the flow rate of water to be provided to the anode chamber is restricted to 40mL/min. per ~~1A (ampere)~~ampere of loading electric current or less.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water according to claim 3, wherein the flow rate of water to be provided to the anode chamber is restricted to 40mL/min. per ~~1A (ampere)~~ampere of loading electric current or less.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water according to ~~claim 2~~Claim 13, wherein ~~the~~ water for dilution is mixed ~~to the~~with electrolyzed water produced in the anode chamber ~~so as~~ to prepare acidic electrolyzed water having a pH from 2.0 to 4.0 and ~~the~~ water for dilution is mixed ~~to the~~with electrolyzed water produced in the cathode chamber ~~so as~~ to prepare alkaline electrolyzed water having a pH from 10 to 13.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water according to claim 3, wherein ~~the~~ water for dilution is mixed ~~to the~~with electrolyzed water produced in the anode chamber ~~so as~~ to prepare acidic electrolyzed water having a pH from 2.0 to 4.0 and ~~the~~ water for dilution is mixed ~~to the~~with electrolyzed water produced in the cathode chamber so as to prepare alkaline electrolyzed water having a pH from 10 to 13.

11. (Currently Amended) The method for producing ~~of~~ electrolyzed water according to claim 4, wherein ~~the~~ water for dilution is mixed ~~to the~~with electrolyzed water produced in

the anode chamber ~~so as~~ to prepare acidic electrolyzed water having a pH from 2.0 to 4.0 and ~~the~~ water for dilution is mixed ~~to the~~with electrolyzed water produced in the cathode chamber ~~so as~~ to prepare alkaline electrolyzed water having a pH from 10 to 13.

12. (New) A method of producing acidic and alkaline electrolyzed water, comprising the steps of:

providing an electrolyzer having an anode chamber containing an anode and a cathode chamber containing a cathode separated by a diaphragm;

feeding softened water to the cathode chamber and unsoftened water containing an electrolyte to the anode chamber; and

performing electrolysis in the electrolyzer to produce acidic and alkaline electrolyzed water, wherein the flow rate of the softened water to the cathode chamber is no greater than 40mL/min. per ampere of loading current.

13. (New) A method of producing acidic and alkaline electrolyzed water, comprising the steps of:

providing an electrolyzer having an anode chamber containing an anode, a cathode chamber containing a cathode and an intermediate chamber separated from the anode chamber by a first diaphragm and the cathode chamber by a second diaphragm;

providing unsoftened water containing an electrolyte in the intermediate chamber and feeding softened water to the cathode chamber and unsoftened water to the anode chamber; and

performing electrolysis in the electrolyzer to produce acidic and alkaline electrolyzed water, wherein the flow rate of the softened water to the cathode chamber is no greater than 40mL/min. per ampere of loading current.

14. (New) The method for producing electrolyzed water according to Claim 13, wherein water softening treatment is

carried out by passing the water for the cathode chamber through a water softening apparatus in which a cationic exchange resin is filled.

15. (New) The method for producing electrolyzed water according to Claim 12, wherein an electrolyte is added to the water fed into the cathode chamber.